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## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application with the listing of claims as follows:

## **Listing of Claims**

1. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for managing risk related to a legal action involving a person, the method comprising:

receiving, into a computer memory of a computer, information identifying a person's status as at least one of a party to a legal action and an amicus curiae of the court in a pending legal action;

receiving, into the computer memory of the computer, information relating to a plurality of risk assessment factors associated with the legal action, wherein a user-defined numerical value is assigned to each of the plurality of risk assessment factors, wherein the numerical value is indicative of a legal risk of each risk assessment factor relative to the other plurality of risk assessment factors and wherein the risk assessment factors are selected from a group including: a likelihood of prolonged litigation, damages, punitive damages, and damaged public opinion;

assigning, by the computer, a user-defined weight to each of the plurality of risk assessment factors;

calculating, by the computer, a plurality of risk factor values by multiplying the numerical value and the weight assigned to each of the plurality of risk assessment factors; Docket No.: 17209.451 3 Serial No.: 09/825,470

calculating, by the computer, a risk quotient for the legal action by summing the plurality of risk factor values;

deriving a scaled numeric value indicative of an amount of risk associated with the legal action; and

in response to the calculated risk quotient, generating by the computer, based on the derived scaled numeric value, a suggested action associated with the corresponding legal action.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising generating a report including the suggested action.

## 3-5. (Canceled)

- 6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1,wherein the suggested action is directed towards reducing a risk related to the legal action.
- 7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the suggested action comprises commencing a litigation.
- 8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the suggested action comprises entering arbitration.
- 9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the suggested action comprises settling a legal action.

## 10.(Canceled)

- 11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the plurality of risk assessment factors is associated with a venue for the legal action.
- 12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the received information relating to the plurality of risk assessment factors is gathered

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electronically.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising aggregating a plurality of risk quotient values relating to the person and determining an aggregate level of risk related to multiple legal actions to which the person is a party.

- 14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13, further comprising calculating an average numeric value associated with the person.
- 15. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the legal action comprises a class action suit.
- 16. (Currently Amended) A computerized system for managing risk associated with a legal action, the system comprising:

a computer server accessible by a network access device via a communications network; and

executable software stored on the server and when executed operative with the server to cause the system to:

receive information identifying a person as at least one of a party to a legal action and an amicus curiae of the court;

receive information relating to a plurality of risk assessment factors associated with the legal action, wherein a user-defined numerical value is assigned to each of the plurality of risk assessment factors, wherein the numerical value is indicative of a legal risk of each risk assessment factor relative to the other plurality of risk assessment factors and wherein the risk assessment factors are selected from a group eonsisting of including: a likelihood of prolonged litigation, damages, punitive damages, and damaged public opinion;

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assign a user-defined weight to each of the plurality of risk assessment factors;

calculate a plurality of risk factor values by multiplying the numerical value and the weight assigned to each of the plurality of risk assessment factors;

calculate a risk quotient for the legal action by summing the plurality of risk factor values;

derive a scaled numeric value indicative of an amount of risk associated with the legal action; and

generate, <u>based o the derived scaled value</u>, <u>in response to the ealeulated risk quotient</u>, a suggested action associated with the <u>corresponding</u> legal action.

- 17. (Previously Presented) The computerized system of claim 16 wherein the information relating to the plurality of risk assessment factors is received via an electronic feed.
- 18. (Original) The computerized system of claim 16 wherein the network access device is a personal computer.
- 19. (Original) The computerized system of claim 16 wherein the network access device is a wireless handheld device.
- 20. (Currently Amended) Computer executable program code residing on a computer-readable medium, the program code comprising instructions for causing a computer to:

receive information identifying a person as at least one of a party to a legal action and an amicus curiae of the court;

receive information relating to details of a plurality of risk assessment factors associated with the legal action, wherein a user-defined numerical value is assigned to each of the plurality of risk assessment factors, wherein the numerical value is indicative of a legal risk of each risk assessment factor relative to the other plurality of risk assessment factors and wherein the risk assessment factors are selected from a group eonsisting of including: a likelihood of prolonged litigation, damages, punitive damages, and damaged public opinion;

assign a user-defined weight to each of the plurality of risk assessment factors;

calculate a risk quotient for the legal action by summing the plurality of risk factor values;

derive a scaled numeric value indicative of an amount of risk associated with the legal action; and

generate, <u>based o the derived scaled value</u>, in response to the <u>calculated risk quotient</u>, a suggested action associated with the corresponding legal action.

21 - 23. (Cancelled)

- 24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein a person involved in a legal action comprises at least one of a legal person or natural person, or a combination of both.
- 25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, wherein a legal person further comprises a governmental entity.
- 26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the suggested action comprises appearing as an amicus curiae of the court in a litigation.
  - 27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the risk comprises

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legal, regulatory, financial and reputational exposure.

28. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for managing risk related to a legal action involving a person, the method comprising:

receiving, into a computer memory of a computer, information identifying a person's status in a pending legal action;

receiving, into the computer memory of the computer, information relating to a plurality of risk assessment factors associated with the legal action, wherein a user-defined numerical value is assigned to each of the plurality of risk assessment factors, wherein the numerical value is indicative of a legal risk of each risk assessment factor relative to the other plurality of risk assessment factors;

assigning, by the computer, a user-defined weight to each of the received values of the plurality of risk assessment factors;

calculating, by the computer, a plurality of risk factor values by multiplying the numerical value and the weight assigned to each of the plurality of risk assessment factors;

calculating, by the computer, a risk quotient for the legal action by summing the plurality of risk factor values;

deriving a scaled numeric value indicative of an amount of risk associated with the legal action; and

in response to the calculated risk quotient, generating by the computer, based on the derived scaled numeric value, a suggested action associated with the corresponding legal action.